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A shrewd remark on preaching of a recent date, and from an American source, says: "There is too much preaching that is like the Venus of Milo, very beautiful, but it has no arms, and cannot help a man that is down. That is akin to the criticism of a sailor on a rose-water sermon: 'It may have been good, but there was not enough harpoon in it.'—Statesville Christian Advocate.

Here is a neat little exercise in mathematics: Write on a piece of paper the number representing your age, multiply by two, add 3,798, divide by two, then subtract the number representing your age, and before your eyes will be something you little expected to see.

IS THIS YOUR STORY?

"Every morning I have a bad taste in my mouth; my tongue is coated; my head aches and I often feel dizzy. I have no appetite for breakfast and what food I eat distresses me. I have a heavy feeling in my stomach. I am getting so weak that sometimes I tremble and my nerves are all unstrung. I am getting pale and thin. I am as tired in the morning as at night."

What does your doctor say? "You are suffering from impure blood."

What is his remedy?

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

You must not have constipated bowels if you expect the Sarsaparilla to do its best work. But Ayer's Pills cure constipation.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent

Mr. McKinley has given the country another exhibition of a lightning change of mind. After allowing those who talked to him during several days to get the impression that he was about to call for volunteers for the Philippines he suddenly changed his mind and announced that the cabinet had decided not to call for volunteers, but to replace the volunteers now in the Philippines, with regulars, and to authorize Gen. Otis to enlist natives. It is believed that the principal factor in bringing about this lightning change, was a cablegram from Prof. Schurman, president of the Philippine Commission, containing a fairy story announcing the early surrender of Aguinaldo. Similar fairy stories by the same author were the basis of the hope of early peace indulged in by the administration, some weeks ago. The rainy season, which lasts three months, is on in the Philippines, making it impossible for Gen. Otis to worry Aguinaldo much for that time. That's why no early surrender is at all probable.

Hon. A. J. Warner, President of the Bimetallic League in Washington. He said of the probable democratic platform of next year: "The democratic party will stand by the Chicago platform. The money plank will be made as full and as strong as if there was no other issues. I would be in favor also of making a declaration against trusts as if that were the only issue; and the same with our declarations against imperialism and the Philippine war. Neither question can be said to obscure or take precedence of the other, but all combines to make an issue that I believe the people will support."

Whatever may be the defects in other branches of the government service, and they are numerous enough, everybody knows, Commissioner Duell, of the U. S. Patent Office, is conducting that office with more satisfaction to inventors, patent lawyers and everybody doing business therewith, than has been done for a long time. He has the business so nearly to date that C. A. Snow & Co., Washington's most successful firm of patent lawyers, make the positive announcement that they can secure patents for inventors in from four to ten weeks.

Representative Gordon, of Ohio, who is visiting Washington, talks interestingly of the political situation in his state. He said: "Whoever thinks the Republicans are invincible in Ohio this year will be badly fooled. There never was a time when the party was so badly split by factional dissensions, as now, and if the democrats are awake to their opportunity, they will beat Senator Hanna's candidate for Governor. I have no idea who will be named as the democratic candidate, but we have plenty of

good material to draw from. Ohio is naturally republican, but the people do not take kindly to the political bosses and they are going to show their resentment at the polls this year."

In Austria, a process for making an artificial cotton out of the fibre of the fir tree has been discovered, and reported to the State Department by the United States Consul at Reichenberg. He quotes a description of the process, concluding as follows: "Artificial cotton can be produced so cheaply that the genuine article can hardly compete with it, and one cannot say that it is a sham, for it is composed, exactly as the natural cotton, of pure cellulose." The Consul says himself: "In a country such as this, where forests of fir trees abound and are made perenniel; by constant replanting as the large trees are cut down, and where all the cotton used in the numerous factories must be brought from far India and the United States, such a device should be profitable." This is decidedly interesting, but it need not alarm cotton growers until it is known to have been put into practical use. It may be like the chemical process by which real diamonds can be made, which work all right, but the made diamond costs more than the natural diamond of the same size sells for, which renders the process useless to the commercial world.

The friends of Representative Sherman, of New York, are claiming that he was bullied by the Henderson-Sherman Speakership combine, in to which he entered a short time ago, and there appears to be foundation for the claim. The combine has already made Henderson the only Western candidate for Speaker, and given him an apparent walk-over for the Speakership. It is intimated that it was formed to do that very thing, and that the administration was a party to it, having decided that Sherman's friendship for Reed and Reed's influence over him, made him undesirable Speakership timber. They may, of course, be a slip in the program, but it is the general impression in Washington that Henderson already has the Speakership clinched, and predictions are freely made that Sherman will find it advisable to withdraw in Henderson's favor, long before Congress meets, in order to get Payne's place at the head of the Ways and Means Committee, which carries with it the floor leadership of the party. The withdrawal of Hopkins in favor of Henderson is believed to have been the work of Joe Cannon, who wants his old place at the head of the Committee on Appropriations, and has probably been promised it, though some say that Hopkins is after the Ways and Means Committee for himself.

Two young men of Bartow, Florida, who have been raising celery for three years, claim that they can make a net profit of \$2,500 an acre.

His Pertinent Questions.

"H'm—yes!" ejaculated the Old Codger sarcastically surveying his callow nephew who had recently graduated from the village academy. "You have come forth from school with a real stylish-looking diploma clinched in your hand, and several long and impressive words sticking out of your mouth. You have graduated, all right enough, but have you learned anything? You are educated considerably, but have you got any sense?"

You have a smattering of Latin and a smear of Greek, but do you know where you are at? You know a little trigonometry and a few logarithms and a little about the ologies and so on and so on and so forth, but do you know anything at all about things? You are acquainted with words, but do you know men? Can you write a letter that the other fellow can read every word of and thoroughly understand what you are trying to get at? Can you fill out a bank check properly; and, incidentally, have you got the most remote idea how to fill up a bank account so's the aforesaid check will gain you anything better than the horse-laugh when you present it to the hawk-eyed man behind the counter?

"Have you got it impressed upon you that it never hurt a man to wilt his collar by gittin' a little honest sweat on it and that the long green in your pocket-book is a heap sight better than long hair on your head? Have you found out how to write an ordinary promissory note so that it won't reach out in a day or hour that you wot not and skin your financial pelt off over your head? Can you accurately measure lumber and your fellow men? In short, briefly, and to the point, have you really learned anything but empty forms words and phrases? I know you have a bulgin' brow on you, but so has a common, everyday snappin' turtle, only his is on his back, and I have more than once known a graduate who had less sense under his bulgin' brow than a snappin' turtle has under his'n. In this day and age there are too many promisin' and too few payin' young men. There are too many comin' young men—what we suffer and yearn for is the got-here-already kind of men. You are educated, but have you got—aw, well, never mind! I guess you will get along all right, anyhow; people say you take after me."—Tom P. Morgan in Puck.

An exchange very truthfully says that our expectations, our ideas, our hopes, and intentions in beginning life are generally all too low. Many and many a one is only indifferently successful in living a strong life because at the start the standard of what one ought to be, and the belief in what one may be, were set too low.—Ex.

CASTORIA.
The Kid You Have Always Bought
Beware the Signature of *Charles H. Fletcher*

"City of the Children."

A very striking and forceful essay under this title was that of Miss Susie Baker Sanders, of Pitt county, read by her at the Greensboro Normal commencement. Judge Clarke in his address noticed it, as well as some other essays, strongly endorsing her sentiments and added:

"We are building up a great manufacturing interest in N. C. We welcome the new era. We are glad to hear the busy hum of the factories upon a thousand hill sides. They are giving employment to thousands of our people who would otherwise be out of employment and are furnishing markets for the produce of our farmers. But like many young lady friends, I have been pained in walking amid the long lines of whirling machinery to see the pale faces of children 12, 10, 8 years of age, and even less, chained to toil for 12 hours a day, with their wistful eyes looking out through the narrow casements towards the sunlight which shines not for them and stamped upon their poor pitiful countenances I have seen the yearning which God had placed there, for the fresh air, the green grass and running brooks; and I have wondered if the mothers and sisters of this land possessed the right of suffrage, whether they also would cast their ballots without pity or would they not say to those who sought their support for seats in the legislature: 'Sirs, ye shall see to it that they let these little prisoners go free. Ye shall see to it that some brief breathing space shall be set between the cradle and their assumption of the weary work of life; that there may abide with them for a few fleeting years the rosy radiance of that lost Eden which lingers only in the hearts of little children.'—News and Observer.

A New York dispatch of the 1st says: Sam T. Jack willed his wife to his brother, Jas. C. Jack. The last testament of the actor and theatrical manager, proprietor of several theatres, "Creole" and other burlesque companies, who died April 27 last, was filed for probate to-day in the office of the surrogate. It contains this remarkable provision:

"It is my wish, first and foremost, that my brother, James, and my wife, Emma, shall become husband and wife."

James C. Jack was asked if he would accept the bequest of his brother, but he would make no statement.

Mr. P. Kitcham, of Pike City, Cal. says: "During my brother's late illness with sciatic rheumatism, Chamberlain's Pain Balm was the only remedy that gave him any relief." Many others have testified to the prompt relief from pain which this liniment affords. For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

While her husband was serving a long sentence as embezzler of \$47,000 from the Salem Mass. Savings Bank, of which he was teller, Mrs. Clarence Murphy committed suicide at San Francisco, California.

Without Shuffling or Evasion.

From Fenimore Cooper and other authorities we have gained the impression that the Indian is a stolid, severe individual, with no sense of the white man's humor, but one red brother showed himself quite a civilized joker the other day in the U. S. court. He was on the stand in a hotly contested case, and Attorney D. R. Bailly, of Sioux Falls, was after him in the most approved fashion of cross examination. Finally, after apparently frightening the Indian with the awful consequences which would follow the slightest deviation from the truth, Mr. Bailly took his most potent tone and solemn manner and demanded:

"Now, sir, I want you to tell me the exact truth, without any shuffling or evasion. I want you to look me square in the eye and tell me how you get your living, sir."

The Indian looked straight at Mr. Bailly, and said with that imperturbable air familiar to all acquainted with the red men, simply said, "Eat."

The courtroom roared, and even Judge Carland smiled, and Mr. Bailly let the witness go.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Charlotte Observer: Mr. O. F. Asbury, who came in last evening from Spartanburg, S. C., was telling of the peculiar death of Jane Shipp, a colored woman of that place. Friday she climbed up in a cherry tree to get some cherries. A woman who lived with her went out in the yard to call Jane, and saw her hanging head down out of the tree. She was alarmed, and called a policeman who was passing. He went to the woman and found that she was dead. She was hanging by her foot with her head down, nearly touching the ground. She had either died and fallen, or died from the effects of the fall.

I was seriously afflicted with a cough for several years and last fall had a more severe cough than ever before. I have used many remedies without receiving much relief, and being recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, by a friend, who, knowing me to be a poor widow, gave it to me, I tried it, and with the most gratifying results. The first bottle relieved me very much and the second bottle has absolutely cured me. I have not had as good health for twenty years. Respectfully, Mrs. Mary A. Beard, Claremont, Ark. Sold by M. B. Blackburn.

Raleigh Post: Government experts have figured it out to a mathematical demonstration, that the population of these United States will be 41 thousand million a thousand years hence, or 11,000 persons to the square mile.

The rapid increase of Japanese immigration to Hawaii causes apprehension in Washington. Twelve thousand Japanese have gone to the islands since they were annexed to the U. S.